

(a) the extent to which the country's tourism industry has suffered due to prevalence of unstable conditions in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) steps being taken to revive this industry so as to restore it to its original status and importance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Tourism industry in the Kashmir Valley suffered a set back due to prevalence of unstable conditions in the area. However, there has been no adverse impact on other areas and tourism industry of the country as a whole.

(b) With a view to revive the tourism industry in the States, tourism has been declared as an industry by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Government has announced writing off of outstanding loans and interests of all borrowers in tourism industry who have been affected due to militancy and whose original borrowing was less than Rs. 50,000/- The Government has also taken steps to undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a Convention/Conference Centre at Leh.

[Translation]

Indian Steel Industry

*276. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " India unlikely to have cutting edge in steel market study" appearing in daily '*Business Standard*' dated December 27,1996;

(b) if so, whether international Finance Corporation related to World Bank has presented a pitiable condition of Indian Steel Industry in its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have looked into the shortcomings pointed out in the report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remove them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "India Unlikely to have cutting edge in the steel market study" published in '*Business Standard*' from Delhi on December 27, 1996.

A paper entitled "The Challenge of Financing Indian Iron and Steel Expansion in the 1990s and Beyond" prepared by two experts of International Finance Corporation, Washington, in their individual capacity, have

expressed concern on cost of capital and lack of infrastructure spending and opined that with protection being lowered, Indian steel makers will be forced into a more competitive environment.

(d) and (e) Government are aware of the issues raised in the paper. Infrastructure related issues like power, road, railway, ports are already engaging the attention of the Government.

[English]

Strength of Locomotives

*277. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total numerical strength of locomotives by standard classification, Division/Zone-wise *vis-a-vis* the project of requirement of additional locomotives to meet increasing passenger and goods traffic for the next five years;

(b) the details of programme finalised to phase out Engines/extending longevity of old engines through appropriate technological upgradation for the next five years;

(c) the extent of fund requirement for the purpose and strategy worked out to mobilise such a huge requirement of funds;

(d) whether international cooperation has also been sought in import/upgradation of Indian locomotives and modernisation of units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and present status of the projects cleared for implementation under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The total electric, diesel and steam locomotives on Indian Railways as on 31.3.96 were 2387, 4313 and 209 respectively. The railway-wise details are as under:

Railway	Electric Locos	Diesel Locos	Steam Locos	Total Locos
1	2	3	4	5
Central Rly.	596	660	3	1259
Eastern Rly.	381	524	—	905
Northern Rly.	253	654	4	911
North-Eastern Rly.	—	221	55	276
N.F. Rly.	—	226	54	280
Southern Rly.	150	434	10	594
South Central Rly.	208	441	—	649

1	2	3	4	5
South-Eastern Rly.	491	619	4	1114
Western Rly	308	534	79	921
Total	2387	4313	209	6909

The requirements of locomotives are assessed for the Indian Railways as a whole. The requirement of locomotives to meet increasing passenger and goods traffic in the next five years (1997-2002) would be 900 diesel locomotives and 1050 electric locomotives. Out of these 400 diesel locos and 200 electric locos would be on replacement account and 100 locos each be released by induction of DMUs/MEMUs.

(b) It has been planned to procure 400 diesel locomotives and 200 electric locomotives on replacement account during the IX Plan as the longevity of these locomotives cannot be extended by technological upgradation as these locos are of 1950s/1960s vintage.

(c) The total funds for procurement of diesel and electric locomotives in the IX Five Year Plan has been assessed to be Rs 8,629 crores. The above funds are proposed to be mobilised through internal generation, budgetary support, BOLT (Build, Own Lease and Transfer) scheme and market borrowings by IRFC (Indian Railways Financial Corporation).

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) 33 Nos. (including 3 locos in lieu of spares) three-phase drive state-of-the-art '6,000 HP' A.C. electric locos have been procured from M/s. ABB, Switzerland, under Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan and EXIM Bank, Japan loan along with transfer of technology. It is proposed to upgrade and modernise the loco manufacturing capacity at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, for manufacture of these types of electric locos. So also 21 Nos. (including 1 loco in lieu of spares) '4,000 HP' state-of-the-art diesel locos are being procured from M/s. General Motors, U.S.A along with transfer of technology. A proposal to upgrade/modernise manufacturing capacity at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi is under examination.

Corruption in Telephone Department

*278. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large-scale corruption prevailing in the telephone department resulting in colossal loss of revenue to the department and large-scale cheating of telephone subscribers and other consumers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider the cooperation of the Trade Unions to deal with this problem; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, complaints are received from time to time alleging irregularities of various types. These are investigated by Departmental Vigilance machinery and by the CBI, wherever necessary and suitable action is taken against departmental officials, if any involved, in such an irregularity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Investigation of complaints is a confidential process in which association of the Trade Unions is not considered proper.

Broadcasting Bill

* 279. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sub-committee constituted to examine the Broadcasting Bill, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) No sub-committee has been constituted on Broadcasting Bill. However, various issues pertaining to Broadcasting Bill are under examination at various levels of the Government.

• Introduction of Private Airlines

*280. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the introduction of private airlines the quantum of air traffic carried by national airlines has declined;

(b) if so, the measures being proposed by the Government to attract passengers towards national airlines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has taken various steps to face the competition and attract the passengers through